

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 04932 061351Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 DLOS-09 OES-06 IOE-00
ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /132 W
-----061355Z 083978 /53

O P 061257Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2477
INFO USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4932

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJ: LOS: AMERASINGHE VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: STATE 076298; USUN 1022

1. EMBASSY OFFICER WAS ABLE TO HAVE A BRIEF CONVER-
SATION WITH AMERASINGHE ON APRIL 6 ON HIS MOSCOW
CONSULTATIONS. AMERASINGHE'S STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS
RESUME OF SOVIET POSITIONS RAN ABOUT AS FOLLOWS;

COMMITTEE I - ON SEABEDS, MINING, THE SOVIETS FELT THAT
GUARANTEED ACCESS SHOULD BE FUNDAMENTAL. THEY BELIEVE
THAT THE REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXPLOITATION OF THE
SEABEDS TO BE CARRIED OUT AT THE END OF A STIPULATED
PERIOD SHOULD BE LIMITED IN SCOPE AND NOT RELATE TO THE
QUESTION OF GUARANTEED ACCESS. THE SOVIETS, ACCORDING
TO AMERASINGHE, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THEY SEE AS A
15-YEAR US ADVANTAGE AND THEY WISH TO ASSURE THEIR ACCESS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 04932 061351Z

WHEN THEY WILL HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO EXPLOIT IT.
AMERASINGHE FORCEFULLY PUT TO THE SOVITS THE POSITION
THAT ALL OPTIONS SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN FOR REVIEW. HE
CLAIMED THE SOVIETS WERE NOT HAPPY WITH THIS BUT THAT
THEY WERE PREPARED TO CONSIDER IT.

3. COMMITTEE II -- AS REGARDS THE ECONOMIC ZONE, THE

SOVITS HOLD THAT COASTAL STATES SHOULD DETERMINE THE SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES YIELD, THEIR MAXIMUM CATCH, AND THE AVAILABLE SURPLUS. THEY TAKE THE POSITION THAT THERE-AFTER PRIORITY FOR EXPLOITATION OF FISHING RESOURCES SHOULD GO FIRST TO THE LL:GDS AND SECOND TO OTHER DEVELOPED STATES WITH HISTORIC RIGHTS. THE SOVIETS DISTINGUISH BETWEEN DEVELOPING LAND LOCKED STATES WHICH SHOULD BE GIVEN PREFERENCE AND DEVELOPED LAND LOCKED STATES WHICH SHOULD NOT.

4. ON THE ISSUE OF THE HIGH SEAS STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE, AMERASINGHE REPORTED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD SAID THEY WOULD MAINTAIN THEIR PREVIOUS POSITION BUT WOULD BE PREPARED TO FALL BACK TO A POSITION MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE G-77 WHICH AMERASINGHE PUT TO THEM. THIS POSITION WAS THAT THE EECONOMIC ZONE WOULD BE DEFINED NEITHER AS TERRITORIAL WATERS NOR AS HIGH SEAS BUT INSTEAD THE RIGHTS OF COASTAL STATES WOULD BE SPECIFICALLY SET FORTH (E.G. EXPLOITATION OF THE LIVING AND NON-LIVING RESOURCES). ALL OTHER RIGHTS WOULD BE BEYOND EXERCISE BY COASTAL STATES.

5. COMMITTEE III - ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, THE SOVIETS SAID THEY AGREED WITH THE G-77 THAT THE COASTAL STATES SHOULD HAVE THE ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO DECIDE UPON THE CONDITIONS AND TO GRANT APPROVAL FOR MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. THEY ALSO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ATTITUDE OF COASTAL STATES SHOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE SUCH RESEARCH.

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 04932 061351Z

Y. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT - THE SOVIETS WERE ALMOST 95 PERCENT SATISFIED WITH THE REVISED TEXT. THEY QUESTIONED A FEW POINTS BUT NONE OF THEIR QUESTIONS WERE INSOLUBLE AND THEY WERE PREPARED TO REVISE THEIR POSITIONS ON THESE. THEY AID THEY WERE HAVING DIFFICULTY CONVINCING OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPAL OF COMPULSORY ARBITRATION BUT THEY WERE CONFIDENT THEY COULD CARRY THE DAY. THE SOVIETS SAID THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT THE LOS TRIBUNAL. THEY DID NOT MIND PROVISION FOR THE TRIBUNAL BEING IN THE TEXT BUT THEY CANNOT ACCEPT THE PRE-EMINENT PLACE IT OCCUPIES. THE SOVIETS DO NOT OBJECT TO OTHERS USING THE TRIBUNAL BUT THEY WILL NOT DO SO THEMSELVES. THE SOVIETS CONSIDER THAT THE SPECIAL ARBITRATION PROCEDURES WOULD BE MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO DEAL WITH DISPUTES IN THE AREAS OF NAVIGATION, FISHERIES, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND POLLUTION.

7. COMMENT: WE MANAGED ONLY 20 MINUTES WITH AMARASINGHE AND EVEN THAT BRIEF MEETING WAS INTERRUPTED BY VARIOUS OF HIS ASSOCIATES AND PASSERS-BY IN HIS HOTEL LOBBY. CONSEQUENTLY USUN WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WISH TO GET A MORE DETAILED REPORT WHEN HE RETURNS TO NEW YORK. WHILE WE RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION FROM HIS BRIEFING THAT HE CONSIDERED THE SOVIETS WILLING TO COMPROMISE OUT DIFFERENCES, WHEN WE ASKED HIM FOR HIS OVERALL IMPRESSION REGARDING HIS CONSULTATIONS, HE WAS VERY GUARDED.

8. STATE 070706 ARRIVED FOLLOWING CONVERSATION REPORTED ABOVE.
SCHNEIDER

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